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20 is secured in the clamp 40, the alignment assembly 32 can be translated away from the blind 20. --

At page 8, please delete the paragraph spanning lines 5-12 and insert in its place the following paragraph:

--With the blind 20 placed in the cutter 30, the first side of the blind 20 is cut. FIGS. 1 and 3 show a blind 20 that is shortened such that the apparatus 10 can be seen. After the first side of the blind 20 is cut, the blind 20 is then rotated by disengaging the plunger 72 of the mount 44, which permits the rotating clamp 40 containing the blind 20 to be translated toward the edge of the apparatus 10. The translation is achieved by sliding the mount 44 along the track 70 of the upper surface 12 of the apparatus 10 or by other modes of translation previously noted.--

At page 10, please delete the paragraph spanning lines 1-4 and insert in its place the following paragraph:

--First, the upper jaw 50 and lower jaw 60 can be of unitary construction. For example, instead the upper jaw 50 consisting of a front plate 58 and two arms 54, the upper jaw 50 could consist of one U-shaped piece.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4, 6-12, 14, 15, and 17-22.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 13 and 16 to read as follows:

- Subj)* 1. [AMENDED] An apparatus for holding an item to be cut comprising:
(a) a table; and
(b) a clamp for holding the item, the clamp being capable of translating on the table from the front to the rear of the table and rotating on an axis perpendicular to the table such that the item held by the clamp can be rotated in 360 degrees.